

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the amendment and following remarks. The applicant has incorporated the upper limit of claim 15 into claim 14. Support for newly added claim 36 can be found in claim 28.

Claims 14-29, 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP No. 5,821,187 ("Zahn"). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 35 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The applicant appreciates the Examiner acknowledging that claim 35 is allowable over the prior art.

The process as defined in the amended main claim is new with respect to the state of the art, especially Zahn, because Zahn does not disclose a process with all technical features as defined in the amended main claim, especially with the velocity of the aerosol. As the Examiner correctly recognized at page 4, of the Office Action,

Zahn does not expressly teach the velocity of the aerosol particles, Nevertheless, the velocity of the aerosol particles is a result-effective variable affecting the extent and quality of deposition of catalyst on the surfaces of the reactor. As such, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to optimize such a result-effective variable by routine experimentation, absent evidence of criticality.

It was an object of the present invention to coat internals, which have already been introduced into reactors for carrying out heterogeneously catalyzed reactions with catalytically active material or with precursors for the formation of catalytically active material, i.e., to permit in situ coating of internals in a reactor for carrying out heterogeneously catalyzed reactions. In this way it is possible to regenerate the entire catalyst bed of the activated catalyst, without it

being necessary to remove the catalyst for this purpose and hence without significant losses of time on stream for the reactor. (see page 1, lines 23-29 of the specification).

The applicant stated in the specification at page 1, lines 31-36,

We have found that this object is achieved by a process for coating internals in a reactor, except for the coating of electrically heatable, at least partly open-cell foams, with a catalytically active material or a precursor thereof, in which an aerosol which contains the catalytically active material or the precursor thereof as a disperse phase is provided and the aerosol is passed through the reactor at a rate which is established so that the disperse phase of the aerosol is deposited on the internals in the reactor. (emphasis added)

The experimental results V1 to V6, which have been obtained at aerosol rates between 0.93 m/s and 2 m/s, i.e. in the claimed range from 0.2 to 4 m/s, show that the choice of the aerosol rate in the claimed range is essential for obtaining a coating over the entire height of the catalyst bed. For the above reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 16, 17, 28, 29 and 36

These claims not only require the claimed velocity rate but also require a specific particle size. By additionally selecting the particle size of the disperse phase which is achieved in the examples via the concentration of the sodium chloride solutions used for the preparation of the sodium chloride test aerosol, it is possible in addition, to adapt the distribution of the deposited particles over the length of the catalyst bed to the specific needs, whereby it is especially possible to obtain a virtually uniform deposition over the total length of the catalyst bed, as it is demonstrated in example V6. For the above reasons, these claims are patentable.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 13156-00026-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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